



3. A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 2-34 before calculating the Filing Fee. A Preliminary Amendment is submitted herewith.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No.  
09/549,929, filed April 14, 2000.

7. New drawings are enclosed, thirteen (13) sheets, Figs. 1-9.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174  
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663  
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293  
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846  
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is a change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

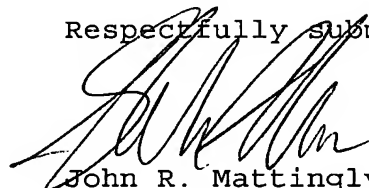
MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120

Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi,  
Limited.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained  
in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed  
in the present continuation application would have been new  
matter in the prior application Serial No. 09/549,929, as  
originally filed on April 14, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

 # 34,663  
John R. Mattingly  
Registration No. 30,293  
Attorney of Record

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: October 28, 2003